

Specification is objected to by the Examiner

Title is not descriptive

New Title:

Method and System for Adapting the Execution of a Workflow Route

The Abstract is not descriptive and not in proper language and format

New Abstract

A business process is defined as a sequence of process steps where each process step is performed by an assigned user. A workflow route to support the business process provides a sequence of steps where each step corresponds to a business process step and has an associated user to execute the step. The user can be a set of users or an automated program. A workflow system can implement the business process by executing the corresponding route. A route is defined before the route is executed. However, the routes for some business processes cannot be completely defined before start of execution because of organizational boundaries, complexity of business process, number of choices, etc. The execution of a route can be adapted to a business process through use of a step in the route where the user associated with the step can specify subsequent steps and associated users for execution in the route.

Claim Objection

Claims 1-15 are rejected for failing to distinctly claiming the subject matter of the invention.

Claims 1-8 and 11 are rejected as being anticipated by Berg et al U. S. Patent 5,999,911

Claims 9-10 and 12-15 are rejected as being unpatentable over Berg and further in view of Agrawal et al U. S. Patent 6,278,977

New Claims are attached. The discussion is with reference to the new claims 17-36 where the claims are grouped as 17-24, 25-30, and 31-36 where claims 17, 25, and 31 are independent claims

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Discussion

The invention is a workflow route step that, when included in a route, provides the user associated with the step the ability to specify subsequent route steps so that while the route is executing, the route can be adapted to a business process. The workflow system executes the step by step sequence of the route to the route step described by the present invention. The user can then specify the subsequent route steps and associated users and adapt the execution of the route.

Specifying the subsequent route steps is not meant to include selecting a conditional branch choice in the route by a Pass or Fail selection or similar fully specified set of route steps with a conditional branch.

Berg et al U. S. Patent 5,999,911 provides a system for designing and specifying a route for later execution. Berg does not disclose a route step that can be included in a route to adapt the execution of the route that has started execution.

Agrawal et al U. S. Patent 6,278,977 provides for determining the steps and sequence of steps so that these may be combined into a route for later execution. Agrawal does not disclose a route step that can be included in a route to adapt the execution of the route that has started execution.

Respectfully Submitted



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